

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04420 290757Z

17
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 /093 W
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R 290709Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5707
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF, PINS
SUBJ: ANTI-SAG DEMONSTRATION ON RHODESIA CULMINATES IN
ARRESTS OF HNP MEMBERS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ARRESTS OF 36 MEMBERS OF RIGHT WING
HERSTIGTE NASIONALE PARTY (HNP) ON SATURDAY, SEPT 25. ARRESTS
CAME AFTER MARCH BY ABOUT 100 HNP SUPPORTERS TO PRIME MINISTER'S
RESIDENCE TO PROTEST "MR. VORSTER'S SELL-OUT OF RHODESIA".
APPARENTLY THERE WAS AN HOUR-LONG ANGRY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN
DEMONSTRATORS AND POLICE, WITH HNP SUPPORTERS TAUNTING POLICE.
ONE PRESS ACCOUNT QUOTES DEMONSTRATORS SAYING VORSTER "HAS
TIME TO SEE ALL THE KAFFIRS IN AFRICA. NOW IS THE TIME FOR
HIM TO SEE US."

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04420 290757Z

WM AMONGST THOSE ARRESTED WERE JAAP MARAIS, HNP DEPUTY

LEADER, AND SEVERAL OTHER PARTY NOTABLES. POLICE WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THEY DECIDED NOT TO ARREST THE PARTY LEADER, DR. ALBERT HERTZOG, BECAUSE OF HIS ADVANCED AGE. BOND WAS SET IMMEDIATELY BUT, WITH EXCEPTION OF SIX WOMEN AND ONE ELDERLY MAN, ALL THOSE ARRESTED REFUSED. ACCUSED WERE BROUGHT BEFORE MAGISTRATE ON MONDAY, SEPT 27, AND RELEASED ON THEIR OWN RECOGNIZANCES TO AWAIT TRIAL APPEARANCE ON OCT 5.

3. RECEPTION OF DEMONSTRATORS UPON RELEASE WAS DESCRIBED BY LOCAL PRESS AS "HEROES" WELCOME. FRONT PAGE PHOTO SHOWED MARAIS BEING CARRIED ON SHOULDERS OF CROWD AND REPORTED THAT EMOTIONAL CROWD OVERFLOWED COURTROOM AND CHEERED RELEASE. DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY COULD BE HEARD SINGING DIE STEM (NATIONAL ANTHEM) AND OTHER PATRIOTIC SONGS IN THEIR CELLS.

4. AFTER RELEASE, MARAIS REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR MASS MEETING ON OCTOBER 5, DAY DEMONSTRATORS ARE TO BE ARRAIGNED. ALSO, DR. HERTZOG IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE" HAS BEGUN AND THAT "WE WILL GIVE BLOOD AND DIE FOR THE AFRIKANER".

5. COMMENT: HNP STRENGTH HAS BEEN SHOWN RECENTLY TO BE LESS THAN PREVIOUSLY IMAGINED, THOUGH NATIONAL PARTY CONTINUES TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE FAR RIGHT CRITICS FUEL FOR OPPOSITION IF IT CAN BE AVOIDED. FACT THAT WHITE HNP DEMONSTRATORS WERE ARRESTED UNDER SAME PROVISIONS OF RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT THAT HAS BEEN APPLIED TO BLACK DEMONSTRATORS IS SOMETHING OF A FIRST FOR SAG. POLICE HANDLING WAS, HOWEVER, IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THAT APPLIED TO BLACKS, IN THAT THOSE ARRESTED WERE OFFERED RELEASE ON BAIL OR ON OWN RECOGNIZANCE, WHICH IS RARELY OFFERED TO OTHERS. INCIDENT SHOWS THAT SAG IS PREPARED TO TAKE FIRM STAND ON ITS COMMITMENTS WITH RESPECT TO RHODESIAN SITUATION. THOUGH HNP MEMBERS WERE GIVEN SOMETHING OF A HEROES WELCOME UPON RELEASE FROM JAIL, NO REALLY SIGNIFICANT BACKLASH APPEARS TO HAVE DEVELOPED. BOWDLER
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04420 290757Z

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